

# NEWS RELEASE

## USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region



Pike & San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron & Comanche National Grasslands  
South Park Ranger District  
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### **PIKE NATIONAL FOREST PLANS PRESCRIBED BURNING NEAR LAKE GEORGE**

**FAIRPLAY, Colo., March 15, 2016...**The Pike National Forest-South Park District is preparing for prescribed burning in Park County. This may include up to 500 acres of broadcast burning, which involves the ignition of surface fuels within prepared units. The project is south of Lake George between Blue Mountain and Wilson Lakes.

Burning may begin as soon as late March but exact dates are uncertain. Ignition will take place when weather and fuel conditions are such that the fire behavior will be within the burn plan limitations and substantial smoke impacts are unlikely to surrounding communities. If burning does take place, it may continue from one to several days. Expect smoke to be visible from Highway 24 and other areas during actual burning days. Smoke may linger in the air for several days after ignition is completed.

Vegetation types are predominantly ponderosa pine, grass and mountain shrubs. Surface burning of the area is designed to reduce the amount of timber needles and woody debris on the forest floor and to remove a portion of small diameter trees and low-hanging branches of larger trees. In addition, prescribed burning helps to restore the health of open conifer stands by improving soil nutrients and resprouting grass and shrubs for wildlife habitat.

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